



The CHESS Club for Providers

A Monthly Update for Users of Carolina's Health Electronic Surveillance System



UPDATE, UPDATE—READ ALL ABOUT IT...

Summer is flown by...Independence Day, picnics, BQ's, school has started and another issue of *CHESS Club for Providers*. This issue's featured article is *"You went to Mexico and all you brought back was a lousy virus??"* by Epidemiologist Marya Barker, M.P.H.

Welcome Laura!!!!

Get to know Laura Silman the newest member to the CARES IR/CHESS training team.

Laura is originally from Charlotte, NC and received her B.S in Biology from the University of South Carolina in 2005. After graduation, Laura started her career as a software trainer with a large law firm in Columbia, SC. She now comes to DHEC eager to merge both her training experience and her love of science.

Laura enjoys all aspects of training, but prefers most the people orientated atmosphere and is always happy to meet new people.

Outside of work, Laura enjoys the outdoors, hiking, reading, and spending time with family and friends. She also loves using her down time to volunteer with various animal rescue organizations.

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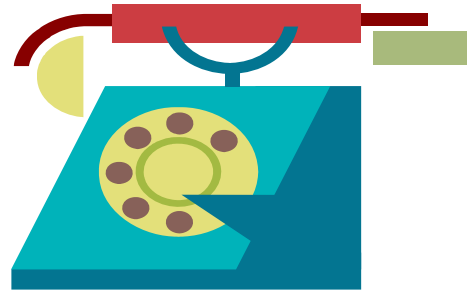
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Who do you call with questions on how to use CHESS?
The CHESS Help Desk of Course!!!
CHESS Help Line 1-800-917-2093

Answers to your questions are just a phone call away. Call the **CHESS Help Desk** at **1-800-917-2093**.

A member of the training team will be delighted to assist you! So don't forget you have support just a phone call



YOUR CARES IR/CHESS TRAINING TEAM



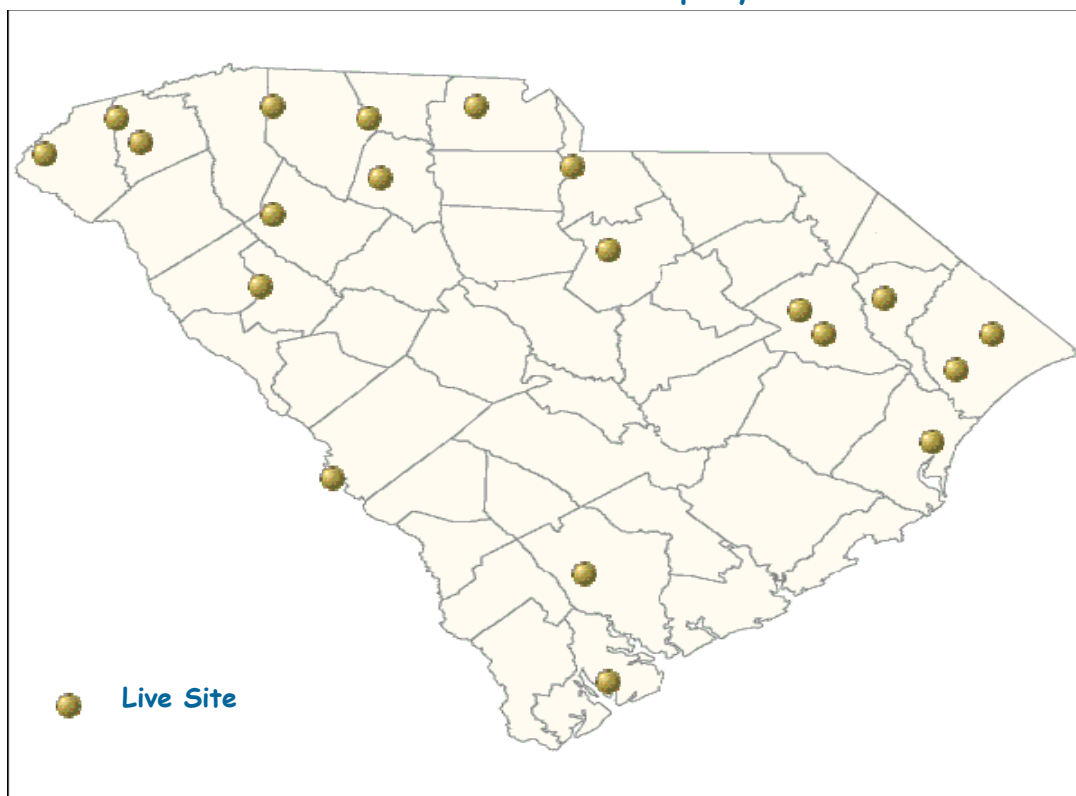
Denise Brown
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Director



CHES LIVE

CHES Provider Deployment



The deployment of CHES to hospitals and medical facilities is advancing each day! Currently there are 20 health care facilities actively using CHES.

CHES is LIVE at:

- ◆ Aiken Regional Medical Ctr.
- ◆ Cannon Memorial Hospital
- ◆ Colleton Hospital
- ◆ Conway Hospital
- ◆ Kershaw County Medical Ctr.
- ◆ Lake City Memorial Hospital
- ◆ Laurens County Hospital
- ◆ Loris Community Hospital
- ◆ Marion County Medical Center
- ◆ New Day Family Practice
- ◆ Oconee Memorial Hospital
- ◆ Palmetto Baptist Easley
- ◆ Paris Island Preventive Medicine
- ◆ Pee Dee Family Practice
- ◆ Spartanburg Regional Medical Ctr.
- ◆ Self Memorial Hospital
- ◆ Upstate Carolina Medical Ctr.
- ◆ Waccamaw Community Hospital
- ◆ Wallace Thompson Hospital
- ◆ Winthrop University Health Ctr.

Thanks to all our Regional Coordinators for their dedicated efforts in the deployment of CHES and to improve disease reporting statewide!!!!!!

The CARES IR/CHES training team have been out promoting CHES in the regions. A Special thanks to Fran Hall, Cindy Moon of Lake City Memorial Hospital and Sue Ann Avin of Carolinas Hospital System for inviting the training team to give CHES demonstration at the APIC chapter meeting in Florence.

Feature of the Month:

*You went to Mexico and all you brought back was a lousy virus??
An interesting look at Norovirus.*

Marya Barker, M.P.H.
Medical Epidemiologist

With the school year starting, we must brace ourselves for the inevitable onslaught of childhood diseases and many other conditions that are transmitted person-to-person. One illness that DHEC has seen an enormous increase in over the past few years is norovirus, or Norwalk-like virus. If you're not yet acquainted with norovirus firsthand you've probably read about it in the newspapers as associated with cruise ships. Like schools cruise ships are a perfect venue for norovirus outbreaks because a large group of people is crowded together for an extended period. Year to date, DHEC has investigated nearly 40 outbreaks in which norovirus was laboratory confirmed.

It is transmitted primarily through the fecal-oral route, either by direct person-to-person spread or fecally contaminated food or water. Noroviruses can also spread via droplet from vomitus. Highly contagious, as few as 100 virus particles can cause infection. The viruses are stable in the environment and can survive freezing and heat to 60° C (140° F). In healthcare facilities, transmission can occur through hand transfer of the virus to the oral mucosa via contact with materials, fomites, and environmental surfaces that have been contaminated with feces or vomitus.

Norovirus infections typically manifest with acute-onset vomiting; watery, non-bloody diarrhea with abdominal cramps and nausea. The average incubation period is 12 to 48 hours and the duration of symptoms is usually 24 to 60 hours. Headache, myalgia, malaise are commonly reported. Dehydration is the most common complication and intravenous replacement fluids may be required. Up to 30% of infections may be asymptomatic. Diagnosis of the illness is made by detection of norovirus or viral RNA in the stools of affected person. Although tests are best performed within 48 to 72 hours following onset, patients may continue to shed the virus for 10 days or longer.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), patients with suspected norovirus infection should be managed with Standard Precautions with careful attention to hand hygiene practices. Contact Precautions should be used when caring for diapered or incontinent persons, during outbreaks in a facility, and when there is the possibility of splashes. Persons cleaning areas heavily contaminated with vomitus or feces should wear surgical masks as well. During an outbreak, cohorting patients is a good idea.



Feature of the Month (Continued): Norovirus

CDC recommends either chlorine bleach or disinfectants approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for use in controlling norovirus spread. All disinfectants are most effective when used on a clean (not visibly soiled) surface. Chlorine bleach should be applied to hard, non-porous surfaces at a minimum concentration of 1000 ppm, approximately 1 part bleach to 50 parts water. To download a recent list of hospital disinfectants registered by the EPA with specific claims against norovirus, please go to .

Please remember that your local DHEC Disease Surveillance and Response Coordinator is always available. So, when you're faced with an ED full of folks with GI symptoms, do not hesitate to call and ask for assistance. The sooner we are able to track down the cause of illness and transmission setting, the sooner we can stop the outbreak.

For more information from the CDC, go to:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_norwalk.htm



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Question: Can out of state patients be entered into CHESS?

Answer: Yes. External providers may enter lab and morbidity reports for a patient that doesn't reside in South Carolina. The DHEC Central office staff will forward reports to the appropriate state authority.



Question: I want to add a new CHESS user? What do I do?

Answer: You call the CHESS/CARES IR Help Desk at 1-800-917-2093. The CHESS/CARES IR training team will be happy to assist you!



Question: Can I enter patient demographic information in all caps?

Answer: It is ok to use all caps when entering demographic data, but upper and lower case text is much easier to read.

SOME IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Please log into CHESS at least once a month, even if you don't have a disease to report. This keeps your account active and lets us know that you are still able to get in. If you have trouble logging in, you can let us know right away and we can correct the problem before you need to enter data.



Always log out of CHESS when you are finished using it. CHESS will automatically logs you out after 20 minutes of inactivity.

BY THE NUMBERS—SOUTH CAROLINA 2007 SO FAR

Condition	Confirmed	Probable	Total
Aseptic meningitis	56		56
Brucellosis	1		1
Campylobacteriosis	172	1	173
Ciguatera fish poisoning	1		1
Cryptosporidiosis	47		47
Cyclosporiasis	1		1
Dengue Fever		1	1
Ehrlichiosis- human granulocytic	1		1
Ehrlichiosis- human monocytic	1	2	3
Ehrlichiosis- human- other&unspec	1		1
Encephalitis- West Nile			
Enterohem. E.coli O157:H7	3		3
Enterohem.E.coli shigatox+- ?serogrp			
Enterohem.E.coli- shigatox+- non-O157	1		1
Giardiasis	66		66
Group A Streptococcus- invasive	75		75
Group B Streptococcus- invasive	21		21
Haemophilus influenzae- invasive	35		35
Hemolytic uremic synd- postdiarrheal	1		1
Hepatitis A- acute	12		12
Hepatitis B- acute	48	1	49
Hepatitis B virus infection- chronic	152	230	382
Hepatitis C- acute			
Hepatitis C Virus Infection- past or present	2578	404	2982
Hepatitis Delta co- or super-infection- acute			
Hepatitis E- acute	1		1
Influenza- human isolates	65		65
Legionellosis	10		10
Listeriosis	7		7
Lyme disease	16	4	20
Malaria (all cases were imported)	5		5
Mumps	1		1
Neisseria meningitidis- invasive (Mening. disease)	12		12
Pertussis	42	8	50
Rocky Mountain spotted fever		1	1
S. aureus- coag+- meth- or oxi- resistant (MRSA)			
Salmonellosis	635	2	637
Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)	8		8
Shigellosis	85		85
Strep pneumoniae- invasive	215		215
Streptococcal disease- invasive- other	5		5
Tetanus			
Toxic-shock syndrome- staphylococcal			
Varicella (Chickenpox)	431	280	711
Vibrio parahaemolyticus	1		1
Vibrio spp.- non-toxigenic- other or unspecified	5		5
Vibrio vulnificus infection			
West Nile Fever	1		1
Yersiniosis	5	1	6

THE BULLETIN BOARD

Save the Date

Members of the CARES IR/CHESS training team will be attending the South Carolina Academy of Family Physicians 59th Annual Assembly being held on Hilton Head Island, SC

Thursday, November 8
Friday, November 9
Saturday, November 10

It will be an opportunity to meet the CARES IR/CHESS training team and ask the trainers questions.

Keep a look out for upcoming events!



Are you hosting an event? Are there any events you would like to see posted? Is there an event you would like the CARES IR/CHESS training team to attend?

If so, please send event information to

Lisa Still,

at stillla@dhec.sc.gov

Or the

CHESS/CARES IR Help Desk at

1-800-917-2093

We look forward to hearing from you!

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Your input is important to us!!! So please call us with your comments and suggestions. Don't forget we are here to support your CHESS use. If you have a question, your CARES IR/CHESS training team is only a phone call away.

Ring the Help Desk Line at **1-800-917-2093**.



HAPPY CHESSING!

